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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: April 24, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

SAC Shanklin of the Dallas Office called me at approximately 3:00 a.m. today relative to an article that was scheduled to come out in the "Dallas Morning News" this morning by Hugh Aynesworth. The article quoted Special Agent Hosty of the Dallas Office as stating to a Dallas police officer in discussion regarding Lee Harvey Oswald, "We knew he was capable of assassinating the President but we didn't dream he'd do it." The story is attributed to a source close to the Warren Commission. It mentions a memorandum given the Commission by Dallas Police Officer Jesse Curry which contains the alleged remarks by Agent Hosty. I told Shanklin to get in touch with Editor Krueger of the "Dallas Morning News" and remind him that Shanklin had seen him two weeks ago and had put the lie to the same story. I further told Shanklin not to make any comment about the story if it was printed but to let us know at FBI Headquarters of the results of his contact.

SAC Shanklin advised me telephonically at approximately 11:00 a.m. today that he had contacted Krueger after a number of attempts and that Krueger had claimed that the story had already been printed prior to his having a chance to knock it out. He apologized to Shanklin for not stopping the story, particularly since Shanklin had advised him two weeks ago that the story was false.

Shanklin told me that Felix McKnight, head of McKnight Newspapers, had called and was irritated over the fact that the "Dallas Morning News" had engaged in irresponsible journalism. McKnight stated he would like to put the lie to this story. Shanklin referred him to FBI Headquarters.

I discussed this matter with Messrs. Belmont, Tolson and the Director. After receiving the Director's approval, and in talking with McKnight who called FBI Headquarters, I told McKnight that the above-mentioned statement which had been attributed to SA Hosty was absolutely false and had no basis in fact whatsoever. McKnight stated he certainly appreciated the opportunity to set the record straight and he would see to it that an article was prepared immediately for the afternoon edition of h newspaper. He wanted to know if he could quote the Director as making this statement a I told him the Director was the spokesman for the FBI at all times.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Tolson
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Jones
1 - Mr. Morrell

CDD:saj
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Section 64

DeLoach to Mohr 4-24-64
Re: Assassination of the President

In talking with SAC Shanklin I asked him specifically if Agent Hosty had been quoted correctly by the United Press International (UPI). (The UPI ticker of 10:23 a.m. today quotes SA Hosty as stating, "I said nothing like that. I completely deny it.") SAC Shanklin stated he had questioned Hosty and that Hosty had denied making this statement to UPI. Hosty admits that a UPI reporter called him at home last evening but that he had referred the reporter to SAC Shanklin rather than making any comment himself. I told SAC Shanklin to make certain that Hosty made no statement whatsoever.

ACTION:

For record purposes.

Mr. Tolson

I don't believe UPI would put such words in Hosty's mouth if he didn't mean them.